An Essay
on
The Law of Cure,

Respectfully submitted
to
The Faculty of The Homoeopathic
Medical College of Pennsylvania;
by
Edward Luke Boyle,
of Farmington, Conn.;
On the Twenty Fourth day of January,
One Thousand Eight Hundred and Fifty Three,

The Law of Cure.

All nature is governed by the fixed and immutable laws of the Creator.

We see the effects of the law of Gravitation in the falling apple, the running brook, the Earth's motion, and the undeviating course of the heavenly bodies.

Through the law of Chemical Affinity, all elements unite in uniform proportions to form compounds; and in accordance with this law of proportions, oxygen and hydrogen unite and form water;

sodium, and chlorine unite and form our common salt, etc. etc.,, and these cannot be formed unless their ingredients exist in the proper proportions.

Through the law of mind, fear causes distrust; hope emboldens; joy affords mirth; sorrow, despondency, etc.

Obedience to the laws of Physiology gives to the physical powers their greatest strength and most beautiful proportions while suffering or death inevitably follow disobedience.

It is a law of our moral being that rectitude of conduct should give us peace and plea-

pure, while a contrary course produces pain and discontent.

These are some of God's fixed and immutable laws. But is there no Law of Cure! Did the all-wise and beneficent Creator leave us without a law to govern and guide us in the treatment of disease! With Him "all time" - past, present and to-come - "is one eternal now". In the infinitude of His comprehension, He saw that man would violate the moral laws of his being, and in the councils of His eternal will the plan of salvation was devised and a law of recovery instituted - "He that believeth shall be saved,"

That man would violate the laws relating to his physical nature was equally evident, and without a remedy to arrest the painful consequences, God saw that suffering would be entailed, even unto the third and fourth generation; and, consistently with the perfection of His works and His own beneficent attributes, could He omit to institute such a law?

Professor Morrow, of the Eclectic medical college, Cincinnati, said to his class, a few years since, "Gentlemen we have no law to govern us in the treatment of diseases!!!", and in view of the many conflicting theories that

have been promulgated since the days of Hippocrates & Galen, if not consistency, does not suffering humanity demand that many others follow the more noble example of Professor Morrow, by announcing the fact that they can give no definite Law of Cure!

But we, as Homoeopathists, claim that a Law of Cure has existed ever since the first violation of physical law, and that all the cures effected in the world have been in accordance with our motto "Similia Similibus Curantur". We contend that this law existed just as truly before as since the days of the illustrious Hahnemann,

and whenever, though by chance, the remedy administered was homoeopathic to the disease a cure was effected. The circulation of the blood from the heart thro' the arteries and its return through the veins, was just as true before the theory was announced by Harvey, as since. But, with all the pride and boast, and theoretical doctrines of our brethren of the ancient school of medicine, the Law of Cure was to them, as a sealed book, and they had no definite law to govern and guide in the administration of medicines.

Dark indeed are the annals of medical history previous to the

discovery of the Law, "Similia"; by
the justly renowned Hahnemann.
Hahnemann was well versed
in the knowledge of the prevailing
systems of medical practice, and
the collateral sciences. By his un-
tiring assiduity and inexhaustable
patience he had attained the
greatest precision in the application
of these principles in the treatment
of disease; but pained and dis-
heartened by frequent disappoint-
ment in the results anticipated,
he resolved, with his characteristic mag-
nanimity, to abandon a practice, which,
through the unsoundness of its princi-
ples, proved a burden and a curse
to suffering humanity.

Having a mind disciplined by study and trained in philosophic investigation, Hahnemann was not as lost to mankind, although he retired from the more active duties of his profession; for, while engaged with the translation of an article on Cinchona (Peruvian Bark), he concluded to test the author's vague views on that substance, and immediately instituted trials with this medicine upon his own person, being in health at the time. He found this drug produced in him symptoms analogous to those of Intermittent Fever; at once the idea suggested to his great mind was, whether or no, the capaci-

ity of this drug to cure Intermittents depended upon its power to excite in the healthy a similar disease; and for the purpose of testing the truth of this hypothesis he tried many other medicines upon himself and his friends, and always with the same results, viz: that drugs excite in the healthy organism similar symptoms to those they are capable of removing when they occur naturally in the diseased body.

Having now ascertained with certainty the pure effects of a number of the articles of the Materia Medica during health, he commenced exibiting them

for the cure of disease, in accordance with the principle, which he conceived to be philosophical and true, "Similia Similibus curantur," and the results of these experiments were, in the highest degree satisfactory both to patient and Prescriber.

Thus dawned a new era in the history of medicine, and the art of healing was, for the first time, placed upon a scientific basis. At once a commotion arose in the medical world, and Hahnemann saw his doctrines assailed by an envious host of denunciators and persecutors; such was the previous fate of Galileo,

Columbus, Newton, Locke, Harvey
Jenner and nearly all the truly
great men through whom have
come all the discoveries and devel-
opements that have blessed the civilyd
world, But time has cast all the
calumniators of the latter into a
merited oblivion, while the names
of these eminent persons stand
high on the roll of fame, and their
discoveries remain to benifit
mankind, The great minds
of Europe and America are
fast rendering the same justice
to Hahnemann and his doctrines,
and the time will ere long arrive,
when the united world will rank
him by the side of those great

men to whom we have just alluded,

In the every-day occurrences of life facts come under our observations confirmatory of the great fundamental principle, "similia," upon which our science rests,

As the Caulker coats the well-driven seam, with boiling pitch, he often drops particles upon exposed parts of his person, and experience has taught him, that the pitch particle retains sufficient heat to annul all the painful effects usually experienced from such burns, providing the particle is not removed from the injured part, but be allowed to remain a few seconds,

How often have our good old Grandmothers obliged us to hold our frost bitten fingers in icy-cold water; and though unable to perceive the principle, *similia*, in the water, much less the kindness in the heart of the worthy dame, we all, and oft, have reaped the benifit of this timely and judicious application.

We will here draw, from the works of our brethren of the more ancient school, un-answerable arguments for the principle for which we contend, and we will then ask them for a decision, "They themselves being the judges."

Sydenham says that repeated

applications of alcohol to burns are preferable to all other appliances,

Hunter recommends exposing the injured parts to the fire,

Rhubarb is found to cure certain forms of diarrhoea, and is extensively used by the people in many parts of the country,

All know that Ipecac in large doses produces vomiting, and yet, Dr, Eberle, a standard allopathic author, says that this medicine, in small doses will check vomiting!

Says the Danish Physician, Stahl, "The received method in medicine of treating by opposite remedies, that is to say, by medicines which are opposed to the effects which they pro-

duce, contraria contrariis, is completely false and absurd. I am convinced, on the contrary, that diseases are subdued by agents which produce similar affections - burns by the heat of fire, to which the parts are exposed; the frost-bite by snow or icy-cold water, and inflammations and contusions by spirituous applications. It is by these means that I have succeeded in curing a disposition to acidity of the stomach, by using very small doses of sulphuric acid, in cases where a multitude of absorbing powders had been administered to no purpose."

Professor Delamater, of the allopathic medical college, at Cleveland, O., stated to his class, a few years since,

"that, notwithstanding Dover's powder is usually given to produce perspiration, that, in certain low states of vitality, attended with sweating, small doses of this powder will check it." Indeed, this venerable Professor frankly admitted, in a public lecture, when endeavouring to meet the un-answerable arguments of Professor Williams' lecture introductory to the opening of the Cleaveland Homoeopathic College, that allopaths "cured as often with similies as otherwise!!!"

Thus while Gentlemen of the old school boast of the antiquity of their system, and sneer at Homoeopathy, and every innovation upon

their "time-sacred axiom," "contraria contrariis," they silently and stealthily abandon their ligitimate ground, and produce their most boasted cures by administering their medicines in accordance with the principles of "our modern heresy"!!!

As we behold suffering humanity, stricken down by dread disease, and writhing in hopeless agony under the effects of law-less medication, our hearts are lifted Heaven-ward, in gratitude for the revelation of the Law discovered by the immortal Hahnemann; and as we leave our Alma Mater, to bear to the suffering the superior benifits of this law, we shall

often recall, in grateful remembrance and with pleasing reflections, the faithful and untiring labors of those who have instructed us in the unadulterated principles advocated and practiced by the Great Founder of Homoeopathy,